OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 17, 1967

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Raupach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

United Press International (UPI) release 11/15/67 refers to a new and independent study of the assassination of President Kennedy which was made by Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

This independent study based on his book entitled "Six Seconds in Dallas" to be published November 27, 1967, appears in a condensed form in "The Saturday Evening Post" December 2, 1967, Issue, bearing the caption, "The Cross Fire that Killed President Kennedy."

This article was reviewed to analyse any allegations made against the FBI. Primarily, Thompson has come up with a theory that there were four shots fired from three guns in six seconds, and the "one assassin" finding of the Warren Commission is patently wrong. The Commission concluded three shots were fired.

In reviewing the article, only two items were noted which concern the FBI. Thompson has stated the FBI used an inferior copy of the Abraham Zapruder film for photo analysis whereas he examined a better copy of the film and four inch by five inch transparencies when he was a consultant to Life Magazine. He alleged this enabled him to make more valid determinations.

While the Zapruder film (showing the assassination) initially furnished to us and used for much of the initial study is a copy, the FBI and the Commission later had the opportunity to examine the original film when brought to Washington by a representative of Life Magazine. Our detailed studies were made using a set of excellent quality 35 millimeter slides made directly from the original film by Life Magazine for us. Therefore, our findings and the Commission's findings were not based on examination of an inferior copy of the Zapruder film as alleged by Thompson, but upon an over-all analysis of all the

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films, original and copies and the slides made by Life Magazine. Therefore, Thompson definitely is in error.

Thompson quotes results of our findings in regard to the minimum time required to operate the assassination rifle. In this respect, Thompson made a statement, FBI Laboratory Examiner, Robert Frazier, testified 4.6 seconds was a minimum firing time for three shots from Oswald's rifle - a figure that includes no time for aiming the rifle. The fact is, SA Frazier testified 4.6 seconds was minimum time required by him to fire three aimed shots which again denotes Thompson was in error.

Thompson has used testimony and data which was furnished to the Warren Commission and is available in the Archives. He also used comments made by Governor Connally and physicians who conducted the autopsy to establish his theory that four shots were fired from three different positions, namely the Texas School Book Depository Building (TSBDB), a building adjacent to the TSBDB on Houston Street, and the fence behind the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza in Dallas. The sequence of these shots according to Thompson were, the first shot was fired from the TSBDB which hit the president in the back, the second from a building on Houston Street which wounded Governor Connally, the third shot from the TSBDB that hit the president in the rear of the head, and an almost instantaneous shot (the fourth) coming from the grassy knoll which struck the president in the right front of the head. (Sequence of shots based on Thompson's interpretation)

Thompson's theory would appear plausible to anyone unfamiliar with the actual facts developed by the Warren Commission. He said the purpose of his study was to perform a task of archaeology to lay bare a whole level of contradictory evidence beneath the conclusions of the Warren Report. He said it does not prove the assassination was a conspiracy, nor does it prove Oswald's innocence.

ACTION:

Our New York Office has determined that Thompson's book has as yet not been bound, and a copy of the manuscript is being obtained and will be reviewed upon receipt.

It is noted allegations made by Harold Weisberg as contained in the UPI release of 11/15/67 is not mentioned in connection with Thompson's book, and this matter is being handled by a separate memorandum.